MSOE TODAY

ATC Announces Industrial Robotics Seminar

MSOE's Applied Technology Center and the Division of Continuing Education will be conducting a one-day seminar on Industrial Robotics Tuesday, April 20, on the MSOE campus. The seminar will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Although robots have not yet become commonplace in industry, many companies involved in manufacturing are prime candidates for their use. There will be a dramatic increase in their use during the next decade, due to their ability to increase productivity and reduce cost. Robots will play a significant role in the future of manufacturing, especially in Wisconsin and other highly industrialized areas.

This day-long seminar has been developed to aid participants in investigating present and future applications of robotics. An overview of how robots are constructed will be provided as well as working knowledge of associated terminology. A tour at the local corporation will be included, providing first-hand exposure to an application area.

Robots are currently being applied to machine activities such as material handling, spot welding, arc welding, drilling and routing, machine loading, assembly, grinding, and spraying.

Engineers, technicians, and managers involved in production, automation, manufacturing, material handling and control, particularly in hazardous areas, will find the program invaluable.

The program will cover an overview of industrial robotics, robot construction, robots in manufacturing, application case studies, and the plant tour.

Speakers and other participants include Tom Bopp, Applications Development Engineer of Industrial Robots Systems for ASEA, Inc.; Harvey Castner, Manager of Metal Joining Technology for the Allis-Chalmers Corp.; John Hinrichs, Manager of Engineering at A. O. Smith Corp.; Chuck Joyce, District Manager for Unimation; Lee Blake, System Application Engineer for Copperweld Robotics; Steve Tracey, Field Engineer for Cincinnati Milacron, and John Fleckenstein of Prab Robots Inc.

Further information on the seminar can be obtained by contacting Sandra Everts, Manager of Continuing Education, MSOE, P.O. Box 644, Milwaukee, WI 53201; or call (414) 277-7152.

Academic Computing Center To Acquire New Equipment

Few things are more important to the Milwaukee School of Engineering than its reputation for turning out highly qualified graduates. That reputation continually motivates MSOE in its academic operations which include keeping students abreast of the latest state of the art in engineering and technology.

With that in mind, the college announced that it will acquire hardware and software to cover the need for expansion of MSOE's Academic Computing Center. The line of new equipment, expected to be ready for operation in July of 1982, consists of the following:

1. A VAX 780 System, which represents the major portion of the current computer system's expansion, is currently in use at many major universities. It is a virtual machine, which means that is has the capability to run large analysis programs. The college's present PDP 11/70 works well for smaller programs, but limits the size of user programs. Without time consuming overlay analysis, large programs could not be accomodated on the 11/70.

   The VAX became a necessity with the addition of the college's Computer Science and Engineering program, which begins in fall of 1982, and the need for CAD/CAM computer graphics.

2. Supplements to the VAX system, including two megabyte memory, two RMO3 disk drives which contain 134 megabyte storae, a TE-16 magnetic tape transport with dual FPI selectable, 16 terminal interface unit which will provide maximum access to the machine and DECNET to allow the PDP 11/70 and VAX 780 to communicate. The VAX has a maximum terminal capability of 120 units.

3. Three additional Zenith Z-19 terminals which, combined with the present six, will provide a sufficient number to be used in Interactive Computer Graphics courses such as those existing in the graphics courses and computer-aided graphics courses in the Computer Science and Engineering program.

   Four Tektronix video graphics terminals, which are required to provide higher resolution graphics capability as required for finite element analysis in CAD/CAM. The four terminals will provide an initial support in this area for a number of students in junior and senior level courses. In addition to the mechanical design areas, the terminals will be used in such

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Applications Up For Fall of '82

MSOE Dean of Admissions Owen Cherry announced that a total of 352 applications have been accepted for the Fall of 1982 as of February 4. That marks a new high and stacks up extremely favorably to the 223 at this point in 1980 and 237 last year. MSOE's previous high at this point in the school year was 329.

Cherry credited both a change of recruiting philosophy, use of zone saturation recruiting as opposed to wide-spread saturation, and the addition of an Admissions counselor in the Illinois area as key factors in the surge of applications. Sixty-five percent of those applicants are in four year programs.

Davis Selected

MSOE Dean of Research Thomas Davis has been elected chairman of the Professional Activities Committee of the Wisconsin Electronics Association.

WMSE Ranks Second in Journal Poll

How popular is campus station WMSE with Milwaukee's young audience? Very popular, according to the Milwaukee Journal's "Big Beat" column poll.

The Journal conducted an unscientific poll of its readers in such categories as Best Album of 1981, Best Group, Best Male and Female Performers, Best Concert, and received more than 1,100 replies.

WMSE finished second to WQFM in the Favorite Music Radio Station category. It passed stations WLPX, WKTI, WRKR, WLUM, WZUU-FM, WMYX, WZUU-AM and WUWM-FM. All the stations listed program rock music to some degree.

WMSE finished second by only 100 votes, prompting "Big Beat" columnist Divina Infusino to write, "considering that this Milwaukee School of Engineering station broadcasts at only 1,000 watts compared to the 50,000 of WLPX and WQFM, its placement is quite an achievement."

WMSE General Manager Doug Geren added a word of caution. "I'm happy to see this occur. It confirms what we've generally believed of the station. It shows the station has been gaining popularity.

"But we should be careful to understand what these ratings represent. We have to be aware of the factors involved in building ratings. We must know the data base. For example, this ratings survey drew from a younger audience. We assume this because the top finishers were all rock stations. Rough numbers show that our sample is approximately 10 percent. Running those numbers out shows we could have a college-bound audience of as large as 400,000 people."

"It's probably closer to 50,000-100,000 people per week sampling WMSE."

WMSE celebrated its first anniversary on March 17.

Spitzer Book Receives Freedoms Foundation Award

Dr. Robert Spitzer's biography, "The American Challenge," received its first major honor recently. The publication was named the winner of the George Washington Medal by the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge. Over 50 books from across the nation were nominated for the award and "The American Challenge" was joined by 12 other winners. Dr. Spitzer collaborated on the book with free lance writer Gregg Hoffman of Milwaukee.

The Freedoms Foundation National Awards, which are conferred annually, recognize individuals and organizations whose words and deeds support the United States' social, political, and economic institutions, contribute to the resolution of contemporary problems, and mold responsible citizenship. Thousands of nominations are submitted in a total of 19 categories, among them the designation, "books." Such distinguished citizens as Connecticut Supreme Court Chief Justice John Speziale, Sertoma International Chairman of the Board Dr. Melvin Ritter, and New Hampshire Supreme Court Associate Justice David Brock served as judges.

"The American Challenge" discussed Dr. Spitzer's varied interests, his outstanding service to America, and the challenges that face Americans. Drawing upon his years in agriculture, business, politics, government and education, he gives an insight into individual and corporate opportunities that can resolve the problems besetting America today.

The Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, whose honorary chairman is President Reagan, is a non-profit, non-sectarian, and non-political organization which promotes the American heritage through its awards, educational and volunteer programs.